

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented): A method of screening for a substance which improves a vascular cell disorder which occurs due to the function of Rac protein, comprising:

adding a test substance to a HUVEC which contains a labelled Rac protein, measuring the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC, and

determining that the substance is a substance which improves the vascular cell disorder which occurs due to the function of Rac protein if transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC is visually identified.

14. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 13, wherein the labelled Rac protein is a fusion protein which includes a fluorescent protein.

15. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus is measured by observation with fluorescence.

16. (Previously Presented) The screening method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said measuring of the transfer of the labelled Rac protein is performed 15 hours after said test substance is added to said HUVEC.

17. (Previously Presented): A method of screening for a substance which promotes nuclear transfer of Rac protein, comprising:

adding a test substance to a HUVEC which contains a labelled Rac protein,  
measuring the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC, and  
determining that the substance is a substance which promotes nuclear transfer of Rac protein if transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC is visually identified.

18. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 16, wherein the labelled Rac protein is a fusion protein which includes a fluorescent protein.

19. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus is measured by observation with fluorescence.

20. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein said measuring of the transfer of the labelled Rac protein is performed 15 hours after said test substance is added to said HUVEC.

21. (Previously Presented): A method of screening for a substance which inhibits the function of Rac protein, comprising:

adding a test substance to a HUVEC which contains a labelled Rac protein,  
measuring the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC, and  
determining that the substance is a substance which inhibits the function of Rac protein if transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC is visually identified.

22. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 21, wherein the labelled Rac protein is a fusion protein which includes a fluorescent protein.

23. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus is measured by observation with fluorescence.

24. (Previously Presented): The screening method according to claim 21 or 22, wherein said measuring of the transfer of the labelled Rac protein is performed 15 hours after said test substance is added to said HUVEC.

25. (New) The screening method according to claim 13, wherein said step of determining that the substance is a substance which improves the vascular cell disorder which occurs due to the function of Rac protein includes determining that the substance is a substance which improves the vascular cell disorder which occurs due to the function of Rac protein if an amount of visually identified transfer of the labelled Rac protein into the nucleus of said HUVEC is at least as much visually identified transfer of the labelled Rac protein as when pitavastatin is administered to said HUVEC.